

**Town of Belmont
Capital Budget Committee
High School Cafeteria
Wednesday Evening, April 28, 2010, 6:30 p.m.**

The Committee met in joint session with the Warrant Committee prior to the second session of the 2010 Annual Town meeting. Mrs. Brusch called the meeting of this Committee to order at 6:32 p.m. Members of the Committee present were: M. Patricia Brusch, Mark F. Clark, Jennifer Fallon, Ralph Jones, Anne Marie Mahoney and Rebecca Vose. Also present were Barbara Hagg, Town Accountant and staff liaison to the Committee; Dr. Edward A. Bouquillon, Superintendent-Director of Minuteman Center & Technical High School; Joseph Scaly, Belmont member of the School Committee of Minuteman High School; and various members of the Warrant Committee, Board of Selectman and Town employees.

Mrs. Brusch began the meeting by introducing Dr. Bouquillon. He reported that he had met that afternoon with Katherine P. Craven, Executive Director of the Massachusetts School Building Authority. She had agreed that an enrollment study should be completed before a design architect or project manager is engaged. Furthermore, she had promised to provide a writing in which it would be stated that the Massachusetts School Building Authority agreed that a design architect or project manager should not be engaged until the enrollment study had been completed. He indicated that such a document was not yet in hand and he did not know the schedule upon which it would be made available.

Discussion of the situation proceeded in which the members of the two committees questioned Dr. Bouquillon and exchanged ideas among themselves. Considerable discussion involved the condition of the present Minuteman building, particularly the roof. Members of the two committees pointed out that they did not deny that the building needed work and urged the administration of Minuteman to undertake the roof work if it is required on an imminent basis. The following points were made. The question of immediate need for work on the present Minuteman building is different from the question of the future of the Minuteman program. Katherine Craven, on behalf of the Massachusetts School Building Authority, cannot vary the motion before the Belmont Town Meeting, which was placed on the Warrant by the Minuteman School Committee. No one has yet seen the writing that Ms. Craven has promised. The agreement which Dr. Bouquillon reports involves the sequence of events but not the decision-making authority. For a more detailed report of these discussions, see the minutes of the Warrant Committee.

At the conclusion of the discussion with Dr. Bouquillon, Mrs. Brusch asked whether any member of the Capital Budget Committee wished to make a motion to change this Committee's recommendation regarding Article 15 on the warrant for the 2010 Annual Town Meeting as made at its previous meeting. (At its April 15 meeting, this Committee had voted to recommend unfavorable action on the motion presented by the Minuteman School Committee under Article 15.) No one spoke in response to Mrs.

Brusch's invitation. At 7:10 p.m. the Warrant Committee adjourned and Ralph Jones withdrew from the meeting to prepare for the session of the Town Meeting. The remainder of the Capital Budget Committee remained in session.

Mrs. Brusch announced that the budget that would be proposed as a "available revenue budget" in case the pending override failed would include a cut from the allocation previously reported to the Capital Budget Committee for a capital budget. The amount available to the Capital Budget Committee would be \$240,000 less than the amount that had been stated in February. Furthermore, there had been some misunderstanding concerning the amount as stated in February. The amount then reported (\$2.3M) was *net* of the amount (\$150,000) needed to service the debt for the High School HVAC units. Mrs. Brusch reminded the Committee that it would meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Beech Street Center on Thursday, May 6 to formally make recommendations for the "needs budget," to decide what to recommend in the light of the \$150,000 misunderstanding and to agree on a recommendation of how to cut back in order to comply with the allocation under the proposed "available revenue budget."

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. so that members could attend the Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Clark